

FACT

Christ is the Head of the church

Ephesians 1:22

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 5:23

Colossians 1:18



FACT

The only document that the church obeys is the Word of God

2nd Timothy 3:16

2nd Peter 1:21

Colossians 2:8

Psalms 19:7-14

John 10:27

FACT

The local church is to be autonomous & self-governing

Matthew 22:21

FACT

The local church appoints its own Pastors & Deacons (leaders)

Acts 6:2

1st Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

1st Timothy 3:8-13



When it comes to leaders in the church there is a wide variety of titles used.

For example...

- The **Baptists** have **pastors** & **deacons**
- The **Presbyterians** have **elders**
- The **Methodists** have **bishops**
- The **Episcopalians** have **rectors** & **vicars** (whatever they are) &
- The **Catholics** have their **priests** (which is actually the wrong use of the term).
- Other **Denominations** have their **ministers**.



“**Pastor**” which in the Greek is the word “*Poy-mane*”



Ephesians 4:11

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

➤ This word emphasizes the caring aspect...
...that a shepherd has for his sheep in a pasture.

➤ An example of this can be seen in **Acts 20:28** where Paul says,



Acts 20:28

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

“*poimaino*”



“**Overseer**” is the Greek word “*episkopos*”



“**Elders**” is the Greek word “*pres-boo-ter-os*”

→ From which we also get our English word “**Presbytery**”.

➤ In **1st Peter 5:1-2** Peter uses these titles together where he says...

¹ Therefore, I exhort the **elders** (*pres-boo-ter-os*) among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² **shepherd** (*Poy-mane*) the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness”

➤ In **Acts 20:17+28** Luke **uses these titles together** where he says...

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the **elders** of the church.

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

“*episkopos*”

“*poimaino*” “*presbuteros*”



So all these titles:

- “elder”
- “bishop”
- “overseer”
- “pastor”
- “shepherd”

🔧 They are all used interchangeably in the NT

🔧 To designate **the same office**,

🔧 But to emphasize **different roles...**
...that **the office** performs.



What about the following Titles?

? Are they Biblical?

? If so where?

- 🧐 Pope
- 🧐 Universal Bishop
- 🧐 Ecumenical Patriarch
- 🧐 Patriarch
- 🧐 Metropolitan or Archbishop
- 🧐 Protopresbyter
- 🧐 Cardinal
- 🧐 Arch-bishop
- 🧐 Archpriest
- 🧐 His All Holiness
- 🧐 His Eminence
- 🧐 His Beatitude
- 🧐 His Grace
- 🧐 Very Reverend
- 🧐 Right Reverend
- 🧐 Reverend Father
- 🧐 Reverend
- 🧐 Father



What are some of the roles that “elders” perform in the church ?



1 Timothy 5:17 & Hebrews 13:17

➤ “elders” are to “lead/rule” the church



2 Timothy 2:2 & Ephesians 4:2

➤ “elders” are to “teach & equip” the church ...
...with the Word of God.



Titus 1:9

➤ “elders” are to “protect” the church...
...from error.



Acts 20:28 & 1 Peter 5:2

➤ “elders” are to serve as “shepherds” to the church...
...which kind of *encapsulates* all these other roles.

 So going back to 1st Timothy 3:1-7...

➡ We see here that Paul is instructing Timothy on how to recognise...

➡ Who would make good “**pastors**”

➡ Who would make good “**elders**”

...by giving job qualifications for **Elders**

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER/ OVERSEER?



verse 2...

🔧 “the **overseer**, then, must be above reproach”

🔧 “to be a husband of one wife”

🔧 “temperate”

🔧 “Prudent”

🔧 “respectable”

🔧 “hospitable”

🔧 “able to teach”

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER/ OVERSEER?



verse 3...

▶ Paul says that an “**overseer**” must...

🔧 “not given to drunkenness”

🔧 “not pugnacious”

🔧 be “gentle”

🔧 be “peaceable”

🔧 be “free from the love of money”



verse 4 says...

🔧 “must be one who manages his own household well,
keeping his children under control with all dignity”



verse 6 says...

🔧 “must not be a new convert”



verse 7 says...

🔧 “must have a good reputation with those outside the church”

 The word “**deacon**”: Acts 6:1-5
 Is a **transliteration** from the Greek word “**diakonos**” meaning “to serve.”

 By the time we get to 1 Timothy 3...

- We see that “**deacons**”
 - ➔ Have become an **official office** or **position**
 - ➔ Within the local church.

 **For example** in Philippians 1:1...

- ➔ Paul greets the church in Phillipi &
- ➔ Gives recognition:
 - ✓ To the “**deacons**”
 - ✓ Along with the pastors
 - ✓ As leaders in the church.

 “**Deacons**”...

✗ Are not to be some sort of a “**ruling body**” in the church.

 **They are...**

- ✓ Leaders in the church
- ✓ That exist **to serve** & **build up** Believers...

...in their church

...in their local body of Christ.

HOW ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN OVERSEER...

...DIFFERENT FROM A DEACON?